Advisory Circular

U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Subject: CONVERSION TO THE COMPUTER BASED AIRMEN KNOWLEDGE TESTING PROGRAM	Date: 6/17/94 Initiated by: AFS-631	AC No: 60-23 Change:

1. PURPOSE. This advisory circular announces the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA's) conversion from the FAA developed pencil and paper tests to computer based tests as a means for conducting airmen written (knowledge) tests.

2. BACKGROUND. Historically, airmen written (knowledge) tests for FAA airmen certificates and ratings have been administered through a pencil and paper method. In November 1989, the FAA initiated a national computer based airmen knowledge testing program designed to enhance security, improve statistical data, and substantially lower administrative costs over the pencil and paper test system. Cost savings to the FAA amount to approximately $7.05 per individual test resulting in an annual projected savings of $1.4 million. The program is capable of delivering all FAA airmen knowledge tests. Details of the automated test delivery system are contained in FAA Order 8080.6, Conduct of Airmen Knowledge Tests via the Computer Medium.

3. GENERAL. The computer based airmen knowledge testing program provides a more efficient and progressive educational evaluation process compared to the pencil and paper testing method. The computer based testing program provides for timely updating and validation of tests. The program provides both immediate test results to the applicant and required remedial information to the airman's instructor and examiner.

 a. **The conversion to the computer based airmen knowledge testing program** will be complete with the withdrawal of all paper tests (question selection sheets, answer sheets, and written test books).

 b. **During the conversion process, a study guide will be published** explaining the procedure for the conduct of a computer based test. The study guide will contain a list of pertinent study materials, subject matter knowledge codes, and sample test items which are representative of questions in the test. The study guide will serve as the FAA knowledge standards for that certification and rating area.

 c. **When a test area is converted to computer based testing,** the associated FAA written test book will no longer be published. The FAA will provide questions and their associated subject matter reference material through an electronic bulletin board service.

4. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE. The conversion to total computer based testing involves the following schedule in which pencil and paper tests will be converted to the computer based testing system.

a. Scheduled for December 1, 1993.

    (1) Recreational Pilot–Airplane (RPA)
    (2) Recreational Pilot–Gyroplane (RPG)
    (3) Recreational Pilot–Helicopter (RPH)
    (4) Private Pilot–Balloon–Gas (PBG)
    (5) Private Pilot–Glider (PGL)
    (6) Private Pilot–Lighter-Than-Air–Airship (PLA)
    (7) Private Pilot–Gyroplane (PRG)
    (8) Commercial Pilot–Balloon–Gas (CBG)
    (9) Commercial Pilot–Glider (CGX)
    (10) Commercial Pilot–Gyroplane (CRG)

b. Scheduled for March 15, 1994.

    (1) Flight Instructor–Gyroplane (FRG)
    (2) Flight Instructor–Gyroplane (Added Rating) (GFA)
    (3) Flight Engineer–Reciprocating/Basic (FEN)
    (4) Flight Engineer–Reciprocating (Added Rating) (FER)
    (5) Instrument Rating–Helicopter (IRH)
    (6) Instrument Rating–Helicopter (Added Rating) (IHS)
    (7) Instrument Flight Instructor–Rotorcraft/Helicopter (FIH)
    (8) Instrument Flight Instructor–Rotorcraft/Helicopter (Added Rating) (HIF)

c. Scheduled for July 15, 1994.

    (1) Commercial Pilot–Rotorcraft/Helicopter (CRH)
    (2) Commercial Pilot–Lighter-Than-Air–Airship (CLA)
    (3) Private Pilot–Rotorcraft/Helicopter (PRH)
    (4) Airline Transport Pilot–Airplane (FAR 135) (ATA)
    (5) Flight Engineer–Turboprop/Basic (FET)
    (6) Flight Engineer–Turboprop (Added Rating) (FEP)
    (7) Flight Engineer–Turbojet/Basic (FEX)
    (8) Flight Engineer–Turbojet (Added Rating) (FEJ)
    (9) Pilot Examiner–Airplane (PEA)
    (10) Pilot Examiner–Balloon (PEB)
    (11) Pilot Examiner–Glider (PEG)
    (12) Pilot Examiner–Rotorcraft (PER)

d. Scheduled for September 15, 1994.

    (1) Commercial Pilot–Airplane (CAX)
    (2) Commercial Pilot–Free Balloon–Hot Air (CBH)
    (3) Military Competence–Airplane (MCA)
    (4) Military Competence–Helicopter (MCH)
    (5) Instrument Flight Instructor–Airplane (FII)
    (6) Instrument Flight Instructor–Airplane (Added Rating) (AIF)
    (7) Ground Instructor–Instrument (IGI)
    (8) Private Pilot–Free Balloon–Hot Air (PBH)
    (9) Fundamentals of Instructing (FOI)
    (10) Aircraft Dispatcher (ADX)

e. Scheduled for December 15, 1994.

 (1) Instrument Rating–Airplane (IRA)
 (2) Instrument Rating–Airplane (Added Rating) (IAS)
 (3) Instrument Rating–Foreign Pilot (IFP)
 (4) Airline Transport Pilot–Airplane (Added Rating) (ARA)
 (5) Airline Transport Pilot–Rotorcraft/Helicopter (ATH)
 (6) Airline Transport Pilot–Rotorcraft/Helicopter (Added Rating) (ARH)
 (7) Ground Instructor–Basic (BGI)
 (8) Ground Instructor–Advanced (AGI)

f. Scheduled for March 15, 1995.

 (1) Flight Instructor–Airplane (FIA)
 (2) Flight Instructor–Glider (FIG)
 (3) Flight Instructor–Rotorcraft/Helicopter (FRH)
 (4) Flight Instructor–Airplane (Added Rating) (AFA)
 (5) Flight Instructor–Glider (Added Rating) (AFG)
 (6) Flight Instructor–Rotorcraft/Helicopter (Added Rating) (HFA)
 (7) Airline Transport Pilot–Airplane (FAR 121) (ATP)
 (8) Parachute Rigger–Senior (RIG)
 (9) Parachute Rigger–Master (RMP)
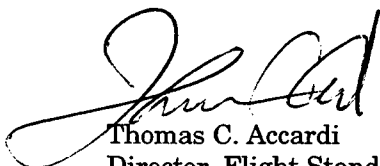 (10) Parachute Rigger–Military Competence (RMC)

g. Scheduled for June 15, 1995.

 (1) Private Pilot–Airplane (PAR)
 (2) Aviation Mechanic–General (AMG)
 (3) Aviation Mechanic–Powerplant (AMP)
 (4) Aviation Mechanic–Airframe (AMA)
 (5) Private Pilot–Airplane/Recreational Pilot Transition (PAT)
 (6) Private Pilot–Gyroplane/Recreational Pilot Transition (PGT)
 (7) Private Pilot–Helicopter/Recreational Pilot Transition (PHT)

5. INQUIRIES. Applicants may contact any of the computer testing centers at the following telephone numbers or contact the local FSDO for a current listing of computer testing designees.

Aviation Business Services, (CATS) 1-800-947-4228
 (415) 259-8550 (from outside U.S.)

Drake Training and Technologies, Inc. 1-800-359-3278
 (612) 896-7702 (from outside U.S.)

Sylvan Learning Systems, Inc. 1-800-967-1100
 (410) 880-0880 ext. 8290 (from outside U.S.)

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